GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2612
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2016
Begging and Drug Addiction
Marutharajaa Shri R.P.

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of children in Metro cities including Chennai have no homes and spend the nights on the streets;

(b) whether these children are from the deprived sections of the society such as dalits and other classes;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether poverty is the biggest reason behind if and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether these children becomes addicted to drug and are later found to be involved in anti-social activities; and

(f) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to prevent the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a): The Office of Registrar General of India (RGI) has informed that in Population Census, data are collected on all persons living in the country including those having no house to live in. However, the data for Cities are not available.

(b) & (c) This data is not centrally maintained. However, Ministry of Women and Child Development has informed that they are implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) for rehabilitation and reintegration of children in difficult circumstances, including orphan/destitute/neglected children in the country. Under ICPS, financial assistance is provided to State Governments/UT Administrations for both institutional care and non-institutional care services. Accordingly, grants are provided for setting up and maintenance of Homes of various types and adoption agencies wherein children are provided with services required for ensuring their well-being and development such as shelter, food, education, vocational training, counselling etc.

(d), (e) & (f) According to the study conducted by the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, AIIMS, New Delhi for National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) during 2012-13, substance use among children is basically due to curiosity, peer pressure and also low perception of harm, poverty, street life, break down of families and domestic violence etc. As per this study, the long term use of substance has an impact on a number of spheres of an individual"s functioning. Various complications may occur due to substance use including anti social activities.
The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment implements a "Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse" under which financial assistance is provided to eligible Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for running Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCAs) to provide composite/integrated services for the rehabilitation of addicts including the children. At present, the Ministry is providing financial assistance to about 400 IRCAs in the country.